



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

The Indiana Department of Child Services: An Update

Presentation to the Elkhart Community
Summit on Children
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Creation of DCS

Purpose:

- Elevated priority of protecting children.
 - No longer just a division within another agency.
- Dedicated operational budget.
- Dedicated staff to support DCS mission.
- Commitment to qualified, trained field staff.

Our Mission

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) protects children from abuse and neglect, and works to ensure their financial support.

Agency Structure



Agency Overview

- Total Staff
 - 3,643 positions
- Child Welfare Field Operations
 - 2,739 positions
 - Includes 1,963 family case managers
- Child Support Bureau:
 - 213 positions
- Central Office:
 - 695 positions

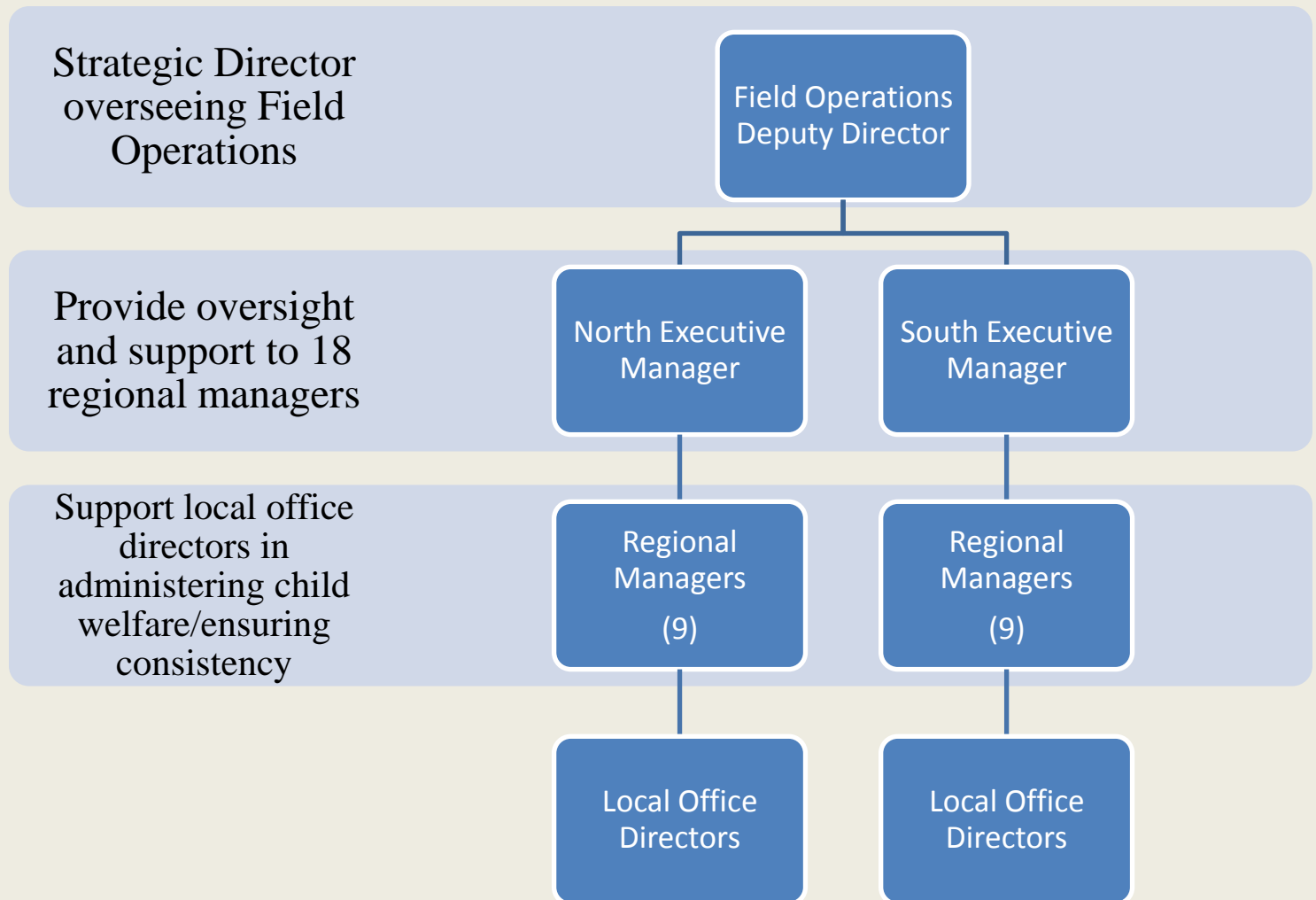


Child Welfare

Core Functions:

- Receive reports of child abuse and neglect.
- Complete assessments on reports of child abuse and neglect.
- Ongoing case management to guide a family through services, placement, permanency and case closure.

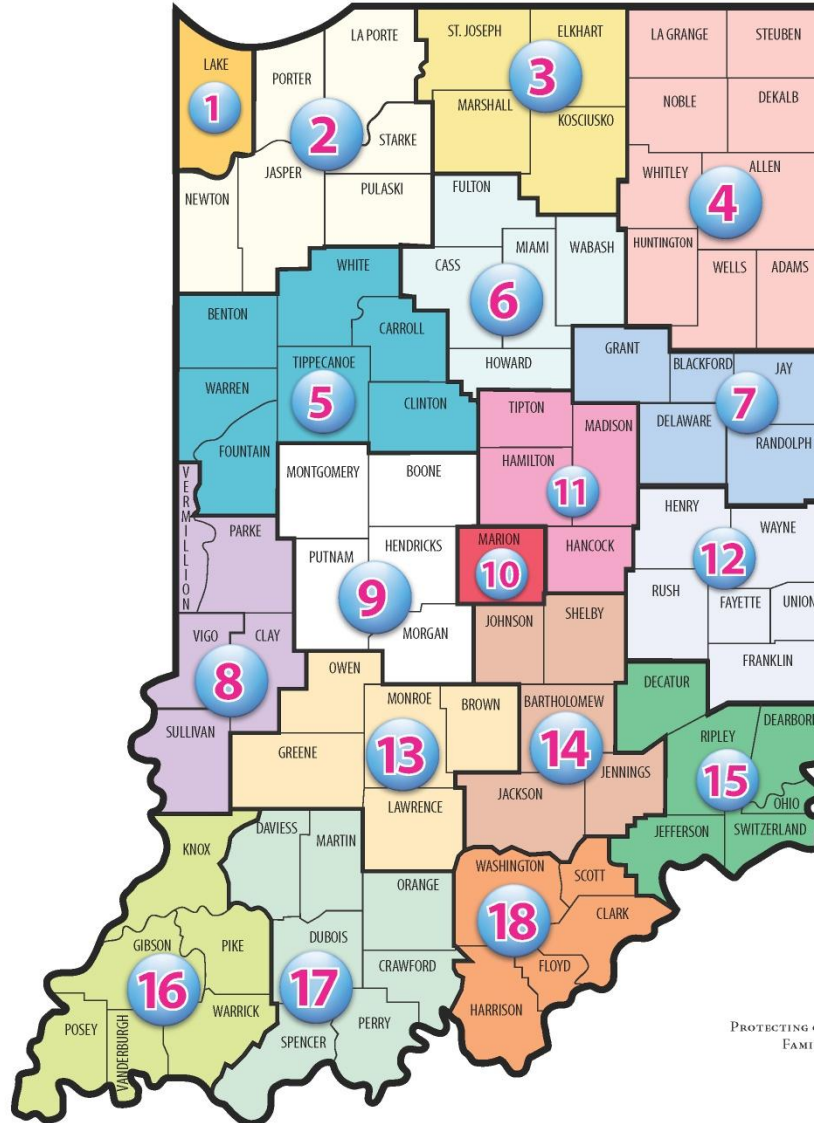
DCS Field Operations





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Indiana Department of Child Services Regional Map



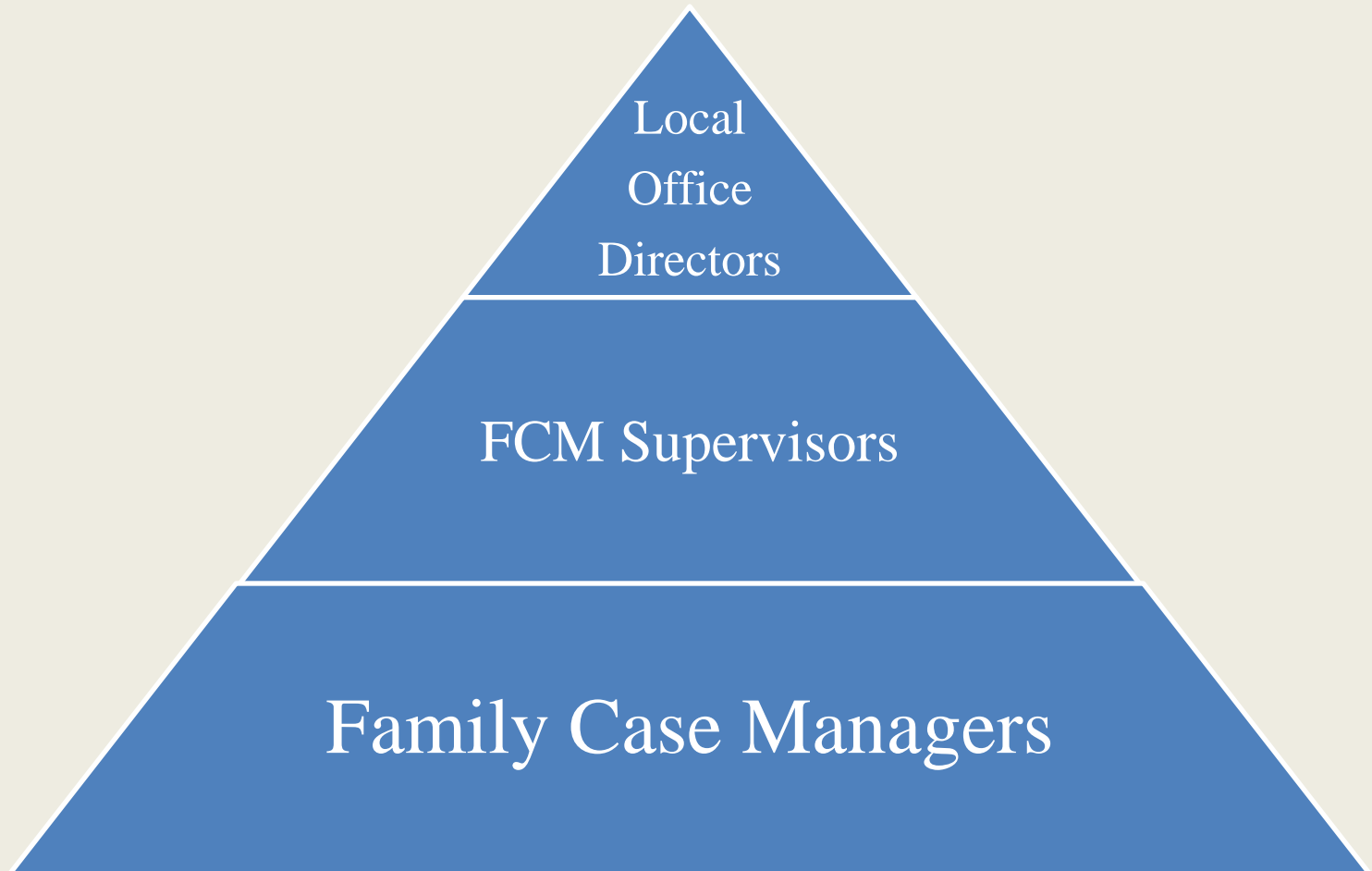
PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES & FUTURE.



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DCS Field Operations: Local Offices





DCS Central Office Divisions

Permanency and Practice Support

- Policy development, and permanency support.

Services and Outcomes

- DCS and provider outcomes, and services offered to families.

Juvenile Justice Initiatives and Support

- Provide expertise in areas where juvenile justice and child welfare systems intersect.



DCS Central Office Divisions

Staff Development

- Training for staff, foster parents and adoptive parents.

Placement Support and Compliance

- Licensing of foster homes and residential facilities, and foster care and relative support services.

Legal Operations

- Local Office attorney's, contracts, and administrative appeals.



DCS Central Office Divisions

Information Technology

- Maintenance of all DCS computer systems.

Finance

Human Resources

Communications



Child Support Bureau

Core Functions:

- Responsible for administering the Title IV-D child support program in Indiana.
- Child support is state administered and county operated.
- Federally required child support functions:
 - Locate
 - Paternity establishment
 - Support order establishment
 - Enforcement
 - Payment processing
 - Disbursement
 - ISETS / INvest
 - Medical Support



Child Support Bureau

County collaboration is key:

- Cooperation with local elected officials:
 - County Prosecuting Attorneys
 - County Clerks of Courts
 - Judges and Magistrates
 - County Auditors
 - County Councils
 - County Sheriffs
- Statewide Associations:
 - Indiana Prosecuting Attorney's Council.
 - Clerks Association
 - Association of Indiana Counties
 - Sheriffs Association
- Over 1,500 county staff.



Thinking Outside of the Box for Kids

Casino Intercept



Casino Intercept

- Effective July 1, 2010 Senate Bill 163 allows for the intercepting of casino winnings for Title IV-D child support cases.
- Jackpots of \$1200 + eligible for intercept.
- CSB trained approximately 360 casino staff, during 36 separate trainings at all 13 Indiana casinos.



Casino Intercept

Results (as of February 2014):

- Casinos have intercepted \$1,998, 832.
- 1,027 total intercepts resulting in:
 - Disbursed money to 1308 cases,
 - Helping 1,965 children.
- 59 cases had NEVER received a child support payment until the casino intercept.
- 90 people have paid off entire arrearage.



Thinking Outside of the Box for Kids

Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline



Reporting

- **The Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline Provides:**
 - A central-point of contact for all child-abuse and neglect reports throughout Indiana,
 - Enabling more consistent and effective management of these reports,
 - Which supports one singular purpose:
 - To help protect children from abuse and neglect in our state.



Reporting

Impact in Helping Children:

- More than 156,000 calls of child abuse or neglect received in 2013.
- 5 Regional Hotlines (St. Joseph, Blackford, Marion, Lawrence, Vanderburgh Counties).
- Calls answered promptly:
 - Law enforcement – answered in 28 seconds (on average),
 - General calls – answered in less than 90 seconds (on average),
 - 47 percent of all calls answered in less than 8 seconds.

Reporting

- Indiana is a mandatory reporting state.
 - Any person who has reason to believe a child is being abused or neglected shall make a report.
- Medical professionals, teachers and law enforcement officials have a higher duty to report abuse or neglect.



Reporting

To Report Child Abuse or Neglect:

- Call the Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline

1-800-800-5556



Thinking Outside of the Box for Kids

DCS Services

Serving Vulnerable Youth

Prevention

Preservation

**Reunification
and
Placement**

**Permanency
& Supports
After Case
Closure**



Serving Vulnerable Youth

Prevention: services to prevent a family from formal involvement with DCS due to child abuse or neglect.

Preservation: services to keep families in-home to keep the family together.

Placement: out-of-home placement to protect the safety and welfare of the child.



Serving Vulnerable Youth

Reunification: reuniting a child and family in-home.

Permanency and Supports After Case Closure:
supporting the child and family after DCS has closed its case.

Child Support: Ensuring child support orders are established and enforced by providing tools and guidance for county partners, and efficiently processing child support payments for disbursement to families.



Serving Vulnerable Youth

Future of Child Welfare Services:

- Increase use of evidence-based services early in the case to minimize impact of trauma.
- Integrate evidence-based programs into residential, home-based and mental health services.



Thinking Outside of the Box for Kids

Juvenile Justice Initiatives



Juvenile Justice Initiatives

- IC 31-40 makes DCS the funding agency for services and placement for
 - Child in Need of Services (CHINS), and
 - Delinquent (JS/JD) cases.
- DCS contracts with service providers and placement facilities to work with families involved in the system through both types of cases.



Juvenile Justice Initiatives

- **Juvenile Justice Initiatives and Support Division**
 - New DCS division established in Fall 2013.
 - Primary responsibilities:
 - Provide expertise in areas where juvenile justice and child welfare systems intersect,
 - Provide support to local courts and probation departments, and
 - Oversee the DCS probations services unit.



Thinking Outside of the Box for Kids

Permanency Roundtables



Permanency Roundtables

- What is a permanency roundtable?
 - An intensive, professional case consultation to develop an action plan to expedite legal permanency for the child.
 - Team of DCS staff review case information and ask questions like:
 - What will it take to achieve permanency for this child?
 - What can we do differently?
 - What can we try that we have tried before?



Permanency Roundtables

- Permanency Roundtable Goals:
 - Legal Permanency,
 - Improved legal permanency status,
 - Reduced level of restrictiveness of living situation,
 - Increase the number of meaningful permanent connections.



Permanency Roundtables

- DCS Pilot began in May 2011 in seven of our 18 Regions.
- Currently, rolled out in all 18 regions.
- As of January 31, 2014, DCS completed a total of 573 Roundtables.
- Juvenile probation started using the permanency roundtable process in 2013.



Thinking Outside of the Box for Kids

Collaborative Care

Collaborative Care

- Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 offers states the option to extend foster care past age 18 and receive federal support.
- Indiana's Approach:
 - Foster care at age 18, 19, 20 should be different than Foster Care at age 8, 9, and 10.
 - *“It’s like the system and youth are coming together to collaborate. Why not call [the program] Collaborative Care.”*
 - IN Foster Care Alumni responsible for naming the Collaborative Care program.

Collaborative Care

- Extension of Foster Care until the day before the youth turns 20 years of age.
 - Continuation
 - Re-entry.
- Services designed to foster *interdependence* vs. independence.
- Program Approach:
 - Youth Voice
 - Youth – Adult Partnerships
 - Relational Permanency
 - Social Capital
 - Adolescent Brain

Collaborative Care

- Placement
 - Traditional foster care.
 - Supervised Independent Living.
- Specialized Family Case Managers
 - Called Collaborative Care Case Managers (3CMs).
 - Receive specialized training and handle a caseload of youth 17.5 years of age and older only.

Collaborative Care

- Collaborative Care Eligibility:
 - Enrolled and attending an education or vocational program, or
 - Working 80 hours per month, or
 - Participating in a program to remove barriers to education or employment (ex: work one), or
 - Medically unable to attend education program or employment, as documented in the case plan.



Thinking Outside of the Box for Kids

Education Services



Education Facts

- Foster children:
 - Have significantly higher rates of school disciplinary referrals than their peers.
 - Are more likely to be retained a grade than their peers.
 - Graduate at lower rate than the general population.
 - Often suffer delayed enrollment when they enter care or transfer schools.
 - Are less likely to enter or complete a postsecondary educational program.
 - On average, perform well below grade level.



History

- DCS Pilot Project
 - Started in the 2011- 2012 academic year in Marion County.
 - The project was a part of FosterED, a project of the National Center for Youth Law.
 - Pilot was used to determined the effectiveness of the program.
 - Lasted 9 months and handled over 75 cases.
 - Partners on the project included DOE, and the Indiana Youth Institute.



History

- Statewide expansion of Project
 - August 1, 2012
 - Created 16 Education Liaison positions within DCS.
 - Over 500 cases were handled in the first three months of expansion.
 - Support of DCS, DOE, school districts, and CASA's.



Education Liaison Objectives

- Education Liaisons collaborate with DCS Family Case Managers (FCMs), families, students and schools to ensure that the educational needs of children in DCS care are met, which will lead to more positive outcomes in their lives.



Education Liaison Functions

- Assistance on individual cases.
- Participate in child and family team meetings (CFTMs), case staffing, planning sessions, and school meetings to help create an education plan to assist the child.
- Connect the FCM and family to community agencies committed to providing specific kinds of educational assistance.
- Prepare and deliver training to DCS staff, foster parents, etc.
- Provide resources that assist FCMs and schools in assessing and meeting the educational needs of youth in care.



Most Common Referral Reasons

- Overall special education issues.
- Requests for education evaluations -- DCS often has a barrier with the schools when the parent is not the one asking for assistance.
- Transportation when child has to change schools.
- Change of school and transfer of records, especially credits.
- Post high school planning.



Thinking Outside of the Box for Kids

Children's Mental Health Initiative



Children's Mental Health Initiative (CMHI)

- Children's mental health issues:
 - Some children struggle with significant mental health issues.
 - Their families have difficulty accessing services (generally due to inability to pay).
 - Some families get bounced from agency to agency trying to access services.
 - Other families end up in the child welfare system as a way to access services when parents have not abused or neglected their child.



Children's Mental Health Initiative (CMHI)

- Finding a solution:
 - DCS and FSSA began meeting to brainstorm solutions.
 - A child should not have to be a CHINS for the sole purpose of accessing services.
 - What is best for families?
 - Need to:
 - Remove agency silos.
 - Keep it simple.
 - Multiagency solution.

If this were your family, what would you want?



Children's Mental Health Initiative (CMHI)

- Existing children's mental health services:
 - Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility Transition Waiver (CA-PRTF)
 - Implementation of State Plan Amendment for 1915i
 - Access Sites
 - Medicaid Rehab Option (MRO)/ Clinic Services
 - Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF)
 - DCS master contracts with Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC)



Children's Mental Health Initiative (CMHI)

- Solution:
 - DCS funding for families in crisis who cannot afford to access mental health services.
 - Department of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA) will assist with building statewide Access Sites and service monitoring.
 - State Agency Committee to monitor rollout and brainstorm solutions to any obstacles.
 - Includes representatives from DCS and FSSA.



Children's Mental Health Initiative (CMHI)

- Families will be referred to an Access Site for an assessment to determine eligibility for services.
- Those who meet eligibility criteria for services, but are not eligible for Medicaid will access services through DCS contract.



Children's Mental Health Initiative (CMHI)

- Target Group Eligibility
 - Child or adolescent age 6 through the age of 17.
 - Youth who is experiencing significant emotional and/or functional impairments that impact their level of functioning at home or in the community (e.g., Seriously Emotionally Disturbed classification).
 - Not eligible for BDDS services.
 - Not eligible for Medicaid.
 - Meet needs based criteria: DSM-IV-TR Diagnosis, Dysfunctional Behavior, or Family Functioning Support.

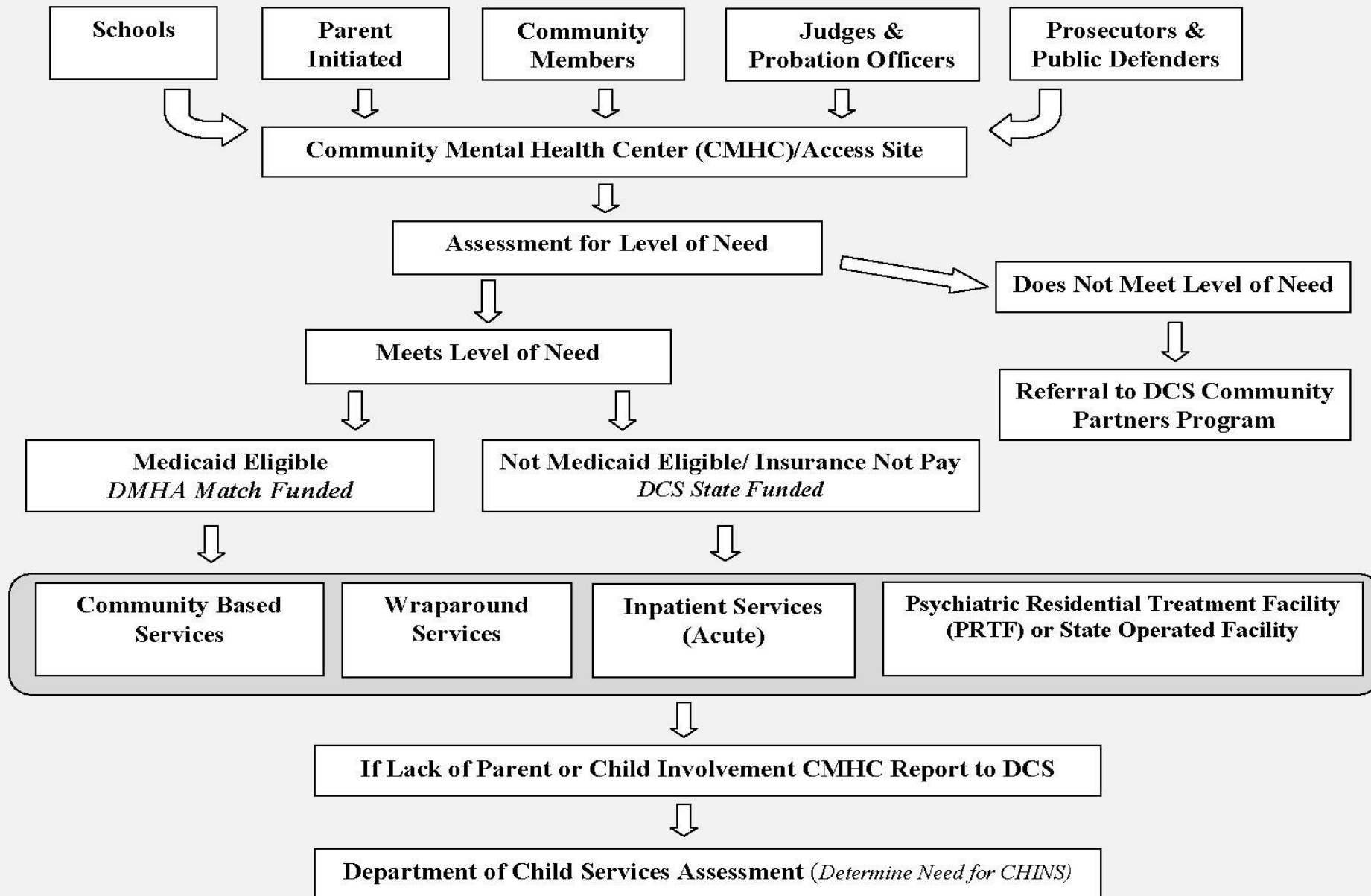


Children's Mental Health Initiative (CMHI)

Lack of Parental Involvement in CMHI

- If...
 - the family needs services in order to maintain the safety of the child or other children;
 - the family is unwilling to accept offered services;
 - the family insists the child needs to be removed when the assessment indicates the child can be maintained at home with services.
- Then...
 - DCS will complete an assessment to determine if a DCS case should be opened to obtain the intervention of the court and require the family to engage in services.

Proposed Process: Access to Children's Mental Health Services





Thinking Outside of the Box for Kids

Books for Youth and Young Adult Connections



DCS Outreach/Program Initiatives

1. Books for Youth

- Provides backpack filled with 25 age appropriate books for youth in foster care

2. Young Adult Connections

- New initiative with Cargo Services, Indiana Pacers and Connected by 25

Questions?